

NATIONAL RECORDER.

Containing Essays upon subjects connected with Political Economy, Science, Literature, &c.; Papers read before the Agricultural Society of Philadelphia; a Record of passing Events; Selections from Foreign Magazines, &c. &c.

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Miscellany.

FOR THE NATIONAL RECORDER.

I have read, Sir, in last week's paper, a letter from a correspondent of yours upon the disadvantages of young women whose support depends upon their own exertions. I was pleased to see a public notice of the subject, but must observe that the writer has omitted to state a very material disadvantage attending the situation of which she speaks—I mean the kind of necessity which it imposes upon the young woman of accepting an offer of marriage that may remove her from it, even when it is in many respects undesirable. It must require a more than ordinary firmness of mind in a young woman, to give all the weight they deserve, to objections against the temper and character of the man who offers her a release from the anxious care of providing for the morrow. Feeling herself quite unqualified for the business of money making, she is too apt to shrink from a weight that would grow lighter and lighter, to take up a burden which may in time become too heavy to be borne.

I have been particularly interested in this matter, from the fate of an early acquaintance and dear friend of mine. Sarah Thomson had lived from her childhood to her sixteenth year, with but little to disturb her tranquillity, and nothing of sufficient evil to blight the roses that brightened on her happy face. She was the very life of every company of her friends, and was not less loved for the kindness of her heart, than respected for the good sense of her opinions and admired for the vivacity and brilliancy of her conversation. Some philosophers say, that our kindness and pity for others arises from the pain we imagine that we would feel if we were in their situation; but I cannot but think these good qualities are originally implanted in us by our Almighty Father, and are entirely independent of all thought about ourselves: at least I never could reconcile

this opinion with the character of Sarah. She had felt as little unhappiness as almost any one, and yet was most sensible to all the sorrows and pains of others. When any of her friends were ill, or in any other trouble, there was no one so much alive to all they suffered as she was, and there was no one who could give better advice in any difficult emergency. She was particularly trusted by her friends, because she never on any provocation either to herself or to them, suffered anger to make her forget the justice due the opposing party; and I may say for myself, that I often felt my vexation under an affront immediately cooled, as soon as I thought of the manner in which Sarah Thomson would speak of it. She sat by my bedside during a severe sickness, with a watchful patience that seemed quite at variance with her lively and cheerful disposition, and even when all conversation in the room was forbidden, and I began to be fearful that confinement would wear her out, she persisted in remaining with me, and I always felt relieved during the greatest suffering, when I looked upon the angelic affection and heavenly goodness in her face. You will think me extravagant, but there was about her as much as I ever imagined of that lovely and holy beauty that characterizes the spirits of heaven, and I cannot, even at the distance of forty years, dwell thus upon the merit of this superior woman, without the most bitter distress at the thought of the little reward which it met with in this world. But why should I weep for her; she is now in the presence of her God, "where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest;" and I hope it is not impiety in me to add, that the hope of again meeting with her, makes heaven itself appear more desirable to me!

When she was about sixteen years old, her father died, and left but little to his family, which consisted of his wife, Sarah, a boy of fifteen, and two children quite young. Mrs. Thomson found it necessary to make an immediate change in her way

of living, and having taken another house, she purchased a small stock of goods by the advice of her friends, and endeavoured by rigid economy and constant industry to defray the expenses of her family. The boy was put as an apprentice to a merchant, and Sarah and her mother were generally occupied with needlework, which was sold in the shop. Mrs. Thomson never recovered the cheerfulness of her spirits; but her daughter's unwearied attention would have restored the tranquillity of her mind, had it not been distracted by the knowledge that her little capital was every year diminishing. Although Sarah was graver than she had formerly been, it was not till after more than a year of such constant application that I thought her eye was less bright, and the elasticity of her mind impaired. Her mother felt no disposition to keep up former acquaintances, and her time was so much engaged that she had no leisure for reading, which had formerly been her principal employment. Such a deprivation must have been very sickening and painful, but she never suffered despondency to creep upon her, and seemed to find in her endeavours to give comfort and hope to her mother, a holy delight that sustained her amidst all that she had to suffer. About four years after her husband's death, Mrs. Thomson began rapidly to decline; anxiety for the fate of her children made her sickness a season of great sorrow, and in less than a year she sunk into the grave. Sarah's health was considerably affected by her constant attendance on her mother, and I feared that she would sink under the load of affliction. But the two younger children were still dependent upon her, and that seemed to call forth her fortitude. In the settlement of her mother's affairs, she found the stock of goods on hand just sufficient to pay the debts that were owing, and as it was improbable that the shop would be more profitable than it had formerly been, she chose the occupation of a teacher, and for a year had the care of a small school, the revenue arising from which was hardly sufficient to support the family. At the end of that time she married a merchant, who had in her mother's lifetime offered her his hand, and had been rejected, not only I believe from an unwillingness to part with her parent, but from a want of attachment to him. And I have no doubt, though she never told me so, that he would still have been refused, could she have found any comfortable means of supporting herself and the young children. Scarcely three years had passed away,

when her husband, who had engaged his whole fortune in a speculating scheme, was almost ruined by its failure. He had never been deserving of such a treasure; but after he began to engage in mercantile adventures that were little better than gambling, his temper became morose and violent, and his wife was treated with rudeness and insult that was not always restrained by the presence of others. The ingratitude with which her best efforts to please were received, was too much for human nature to bear, and this accomplished, lovely and noble woman, who was qualified to adorn and brighten life, and would have been almost adored by a husband capable of appreciating her worth, fell a victim to the unkindness of one who was every way her inferior, and was, even in his best days, utterly unworthy of that kind heart and magnanimous spirit.

The effort that I have made to give you this account, has brought many tears into the eyes of an old woman, who has lost too many of her friends and kindred to feel a common loss very acutely, but who can never suffer herself to think of the friend whose affection gladdened her youthful days, without a swelling heart, and a prayer to Infinite Goodness to strengthen her faith in the wisdom of the mysterious ways of Providence.

S. G.

Mr. Yorick.

FOR THE NATIONAL RECORDER.

Messrs. Editors,

I am a patriot; that is to say, I love my country, and if wealth or influence give me power to confer benefits on my species, my views of the natural order and economy of things would induce me to extend the sphere of my benevolence in succession, 1st, to my own family and connexions, 2dly, to my neighbourhood, 3dly, to my own state, country, &c. But if I could do a service to the whole of mankind, I should be still better pleased; for my patriotism is but the natural offspring of a more noble principle—philanthropy. If I do not possess some portion of this, I cannot conceive that I can justly lay claim to a particle of the other. As for that patriotism which lies in unceasing boast, ascribing to every thing that appertains to "*my country*," an additional intrinsic value from that circumstance only, this is a patriotism in which I have neither lot nor part; and I should rejoice at the arrival of that period when I might no longer see nor hear the indications of it.

I rejoice, indeed, that my lot is cast in a land, where there is yet elbow room for life

and liberty and enterprise; where as yet the "spirit of oppression" has a chain which allows him to go only *certain* lengths; where power and wealth and *learning* have not yet consolidated their triple league against the rights, liberties and happiness of the great body of the nation. For this I *rejoice*; and should rejoice yet more, could I believe that this state of things would lead to better; that posterity should see the evil removed, the deficient supplied, and the good perfected. But this I fear is too pleasant a picture, ever to be realized. The clay and the iron mixture are too visible in the actual state of things.

With these (perhaps you may esteem them) *gloomy* views of things, I read in your number for Aug. 26th, the following passage. "It is delightful to observe one nation among so many regulate its conduct in every point upon liberal principles. It will be proved by the brilliant results that the exclusive and jealous maxims of the old European states, which they with great effrontery call 'practical truths,' because they unhappily put them in practice, are deserving of the appellations of 'vain systems' and 'fatal theories,' (terms) so often and so ignorantly applied to the great truths of political economy. The American confederation will have the glory of proving by experience, that the most profound policy is in accordance with moderation and humanity."

In the foregoing sentiments I most cordially concur, except in your ascribing to the American government a liberal policy *in every point*; and in giving them glory for the *discovery* that "the most profound policy is in accordance with moderation and humanity." This is an age of discovery—many important truths are said to be discovered. But to me it appears that in these discoveries there is no cause of boasting, but rather of blushing and humiliation: for the fact seems to be that those truths have not been so much discovered by human wisdom, as *forced* upon the obtuse intellects of the great and the wise of the earth, by the irresistible evidence of long and woful experience. *These* are, at this late date of the world, *beginning* to see, what to honest and simple hearted men was known in every age of the world, that "God is wiser than man." That when he required of his creatures "to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly," he was only requiring what was conducive to individual as well as to universal happiness.

He "makes what happiness we justly call, Consist not in the good of one, but all."

But what has been the result of all the learned labour, research and discussion for so many centuries. Has not the policy of all nations, however refined, however great and wise in the estimation of themselves or of their neighbours, been in direct opposition to the divine law of love? Have not pride, revenge and bloodthirstiness been elevated to the dignity of virtues? Has not hatred to other nations been fostered as the life blood of patriotism? Have they not lived among each other as beasts of prey, and as if each believed its own prosperity and happiness depended on the destruction of those of all others? If now, though late, the scales are beginning to fall from the eyes of the great and the reputed wise, who have heretofore seen "men as trees," let us "thank God and take courage;" but let us beware of boasting. Truly "pride was not made for man." It is a lamentable truth that in almost every point which affects our interest or our prejudices we dispute the ground inch by inch, till driven from the fastnesses of error by long and unwelcome experience. How many fatal systems and doctrines have been hugged, and, though from their origin to the present day they have been productive of nothing but confusion and misery, are still hugged by the *reputed* wise, as "practical truths." And there is little ground to hope that this blindness will wholly disappear, until both rulers and people become more sincere and simple hearted—as fond of justice and mercy as they are now of wealth and vain glory. How lately has the fact obtained general assent, that "the African is endowed with the same faculties and aptitudes as white men." And how was this *discovery* made? Not by candid and liberal inquiry—but forced upon us by conspicuous and notorious facts. And to this day, even in the face of historical fact,* we are told by those who "delight in war"† that, "nothing but *fear* can keep savages in order," because unhappily *such* characters put no other plan in practice. We have graciously conceded, that the negro is a man, because slaves are at length found to be a troublesome, and not a very profitable kind of property; and with the major part of mankind it is no longer a point of *interest* to consider them as beasts. As to our red brethren, as they were not found to be good materials for slaves, we have never I believe thought it necessary to divest *them*

* Vide, the early history of Pennsylvania.

† Witness the history of *Madison Island* and the *Seminole war*.

of their humanity. But as we have a great desire to possess their lands, and as perhaps both the national government and individuals feel some qualms of conscience in regard to the treatment which the poor remains of this *noble* race have received at our hands, many of our writers (exhibiting talents worthy of a better cause) have taken a deal of pains to prove, that the "Indians of North America are a race utterly incapable of receiving either civilization or Christianity." Now if this grand point can be established, or if the public mind can only be kept for half a century more under this delusion, the great object of these writers will be accomplished. No man can conceive himself conscientiously bound to promote an object which he believes to be unattainable. Let the outstretched arm of Christian charity be restrained by the withering doctrine of "impracticability," and in less than the period mentioned, the self styled "faithful" may exultingly set up his Ebenezer, and rejoice that the heathen is driven out, and his place occupied by "those who can praise their Maker." But far different will be the feelings of the true philanthropist. His will be the melancholy task of erecting a monument to a departed people, a mighty nation, a *noble* race—a race who might still have existed and flourished, had the *discovery* been made in time (before avarice had accomplished her greedy purpose), that God "made of one blood *all* the families of the earth;" that even Indians are men, possessing like passions, powers and propensities with others, and operated on in a similar manner by the same causes. Oh! that on behalf of this sinking race, I could extend my voice to the remotest corner of the land of their forefathers; that in this noble enterprise (and a more godlike was never offered to their acceptance), I could enlist all the sympathies of the philanthropist, all the energies of the Christian. That in the experiment of "saving a nation," I could induce the government or the people of these states to appropriate only so much as the cost of building and maintaining *one* great engine of *destruction*—*one ship of the line*. Could the *saving* of a nation be considered as an object of as much magnitude, and conferring as much glory, as the destruction of lives and property in needless wars, I am satisfied the *discovery* would soon be incontestably established, that "Indians *can* be civilized, and be made partakers of the gospel of Christ." Indeed to every candid and intelligent mind, I conceive these facts must be already amply

established. It is not denied that it requires patience and perseverance to break up the habits of a wandering life. This might have been known, *a priori*, without attributing to the native of North America any *inherent* peculiarity of disposition. If any unusual difficulty exists, more than would attach to the reclaiming of other savages from the hunting life, may it not be justly ascribed to our having lost their confidence. Though they have no fine arts, no classical learning, no poets and historians to plead their cause, they are too sagacious not to observe our want of sincerity and good faith. They feel indignant at the wrongs they have suffered; they are sensible of the futility of resistance; and they must perceive that gradually to dispossess them of their little reservations, and drive them from every resting place, is the ultimate object in almost every treaty. Perhaps some lustrums hence (for I can scarcely believe it will extend to a century) we may make some further important *discoveries* respecting our *black* population. We have already discovered that a slave population is a curse instead of a blessing. We could wish that our forefathers, when they took up the important question—"Whether they should cultivate their land by slaves or freemen," had been guided in their deliberations by the simple dictates of justice. The question would have been decided without debate. The soil of our country would never have been cursed by the tears of a *slave*. But our fathers, wise and politic as we, thought "justice and humanity" terms too monkish for a politician. "The prosperity of country," "the public good," those are the considerations which are worthy to absorb all others in the mind of a *statesman*. "Will the importation of slaves conduce to the rapid growth of the colony." That is the question. And they decided in the affirmative. And now, since we are *feelingly* convinced that our fathers were impolitic in being unjust, shall *we* be just? Justice demands, without "if" or "but," that at least the slave whose services have paid all the costs of purchase and maintenance, should be set free; and that all obtained by birth should be free at the age of twenty-one.* But human wisdom says, "It is unsafe to do justice! If emancipation ever becomes universal, it


* I am not about to discuss the extent of the powers of the general or state governments. It is presumed that the power of wiping away this foul stain from our land, lies *somewhere*; and that it will one day be exercised.

must be accomplished very gradually; and the commencement of the work must be deferred until those who hold slaves shall deem it *safe* to restore to them the rights of men."

When is this system to go into operation? How long will its consummation require? What is to become of the freed men as the work progresses? What effect will this system have on those still retained in bondage *acknowledged* to be unjust? These are highly important queries; and if the system be put in practice, *time* will answer them; and perhaps though late, enable posterity by woful experience to *discover* that in *all cases* "honesty is the best policy."

That the black population of this country will one day be freemen; and that they will always constitute not an inconsiderable portion of the whole population of North America, are propositions the truth of which I presume no man can seriously doubt who believes in prophecy, who derives instruction from history, and whose eyes are not blind to the "signs of the times." And it may be of importance to posterity whether the resumption of this "inalienable right" be the result of a voluntary act of justice on our part; or the result of desperate conflict.

SPIRIT OF AN AGE AT HAND.

 The writer of the foregoing communication will no doubt excuse us for printing it by itself, as it has no connexion with what follows it in his manuscript. The expediency of publishing the remainder is yet to be considered of. Some annotations upon Peters' Letters were accidentally sent with the paper. Will the writer call for them, or shall we guess who he is, and send them to him? Perhaps he would have time and inclination to put them in regular form, and send them to us again?

From Baldwin's London Magazine.

*Memoirs of Richard L. Edgeworth, Esq.**

The first volume contains such part of the memoirs of Mr. Edgeworth as was written by himself, and is of a very different complexion from the second from the pen of his daughter. We see in every page of the former, evidence of that abundance of animal spirits, and healthy activity of body

and mind, which often changed their channel of direction in the course of his life, without ever relaxing their innate spring, or losing any of their pristine force of impulse. It is indeed Mr. Edgeworth's boast, corroborated by his daughter's testimony, that he was unchanged by age, or events. He seems to have had a ready and quick feeling for every thing that happened, just as the bulrush has a rapid sympathy with the breeze that passes over it, and raises its head exactly into its old position the instant it is gone by. Mr. Edgeworth began to marry at twenty, and continued the practice till late in life. In fact, matrimony and mechanics seem to have monopolized his fidelity: with dancing he was desperately enamoured at first, but his taste soon tired of it, though he is careful to assure us his legs never did. Gambling and dissipated companions possessed him for a time, but neither sullied his mind, nor permanently influenced his habits. Telegraphs and one-wheeled chaises, however, kept stronger hold of him: he was the first to send poetry across the channel by a chain of signals; and he contrived for himself a carriage in which his "*legs were warned to lift themselves up,*" to escape being broken by posts, and in which he sat "*pretty safe from wet,*" his feet being "secured by leathers which folded up like the sides of bellows."

One of his exploits in this commodious vehicle he records in a tone of exultation with which we entirely sympathize:—

"On my road to Birmingham I passed through Long-Compton, in Warwickshire, on a Sunday. The people were returning from church, and numbers stopped to gaze at me. There is or was a shallow ford near the town, over which there was a very narrow bridge for horse and foot passengers, but not sufficiently wide for wagons or chaises. Towards this bridge I drove. The people, not perceiving the structure of my one-wheeled vehicle, called to me with great eagerness, to warn me that the bridge was too narrow for carriages. I had an excellent horse, which went so fast as to give but little time for examination. The louder they called, the faster I drove, and when I had passed the bridge, they shouted after me with surprise. I got on to Shipton upon Stour; but, before I had dined there, I found that my fame had overtaken me. My carriage was put into a coach house, so that those who came from Long-Compton, not seeing it, did not recognise me; I therefore had an opportunity of hearing all the exaggerations and

* Memoirs of the late R. L. Edgeworth, esq. begun by himself, and finished by his daughter, Maria Edgeworth. 2 vols. London, 1820.

strange conjectures, which were made by those who related my passage over the narrow bridge. There were posts on the bridge, to prevent, as I suppose, more than one horseman from passing at once. Some of the spectators asserted, that my carriage had gone over these posts; others said that it had not *wheels*, which was indeed literally true; but they meant to say that it was without any wheel. Some were sure that no carriage ever went so fast; and all agreed, that at the end of the bridge, where the floods had laid the roads for some way under water, my carriage swam on the surface of the water."

Mr. Edgeworth was also, about the commencement of his career in mechanics, lucky enough to contrive a wheel which "should carry on a man *as fast as he could possibly walk*," that is to say, provided he "*plied his legs with energy*." On the first experiment being made, it answered its purpose so well as to give the lad within scarcely time "*to jump from his rolling prison before it reached the chalk-pit*; but the wheel went on with such velocity as to outstrip its pursuers, and rolling over the edge of the precipice it was dashed to pieces."

To recompense himself for this misfortune he invented "*a sailing carriage*."

"The carriage was light, steady, and ran with amazing velocity. One day when I was preparing for a sail in it, with my friend and schoolfellow, Mr. William Foster, my wheel-boat escaped from its moorings, just as we were going to step on board. With the utmost difficulty I overtook it, and as I saw three or four stage coaches on the road, and feared that this sailing chariot might frighten their horses, I, at the hazard of my life, got into my carriage while it was under full sail, and then, at a favourable part of the road, I used the means I had of guiding it easily out of the way. But the sense of the mischief which must have ensued, if I had not succeeded in getting into the machine at the proper place, and stopping it at the right moment, was so strong, as to deter me from trying any more experiments on this carriage in such a dangerous place. Such should never be attempted except on a large common, *at a distance from a high road*. It may not however be amiss to suggest, that upon a long extent of iron railway, in an open country, carriages properly constructed might make profitable voyages from time to time with sails instead of horses; for though a constant or regular intercourse could not be thus carried on, yet goods of

a certain sort, that are saleable at any time, might be stored till wind and weather were favourable."

One more of Mr. Edgeworth's ingenious inventions is all we can allow to this subject:—he offered for a wager to produce a *wooden horse that should carry him safely over the highest wall in the country!*

"It struck me, that, if a machine were made with eight legs, four only of which should stand upon the ground at one time; if the remaining four were raised up into the body of the machine, and if this body were divided into two parts, sliding, or rather rolling on cylinders, one of the parts, and the legs belonging to it, might in two efforts be projected over the wall by a person in the machine; and the legs belonging to this part might be let down to the ground, and then the other half of the machine might have its legs drawn up, and be projected over the wall, and so on alternately. This idea by degrees developed itself in my mind, so as to make me perceive, that as one half of the machine was always a road for the other half, and that such a machine never rolled upon the ground, a carriage might be made, which should carry a road for itself. It is already certain, that a carriage moving on an iron railway may be drawn with a fourth part of the force requisite to draw it on a common road. After having made a number of models of my machine, that should carry and lay down its own road, *I took out a patent to secure to myself the principle*; but the term of my patent has been long since expired, without my having been able to unite to my satisfaction in this machine strength with sufficient lightness, and with regular motion, so as to obtain the advantages I proposed. As an *encouragement to perseverance*, I assure my readers, that I never lost sight of this scheme during *forty years*; that I have made considerably above *one hundred* working models upon this principle, in a great variety of forms; and that *although I have not yet been able to accomplish my project, I am still satisfied that it is feasible*."

Justice, however, will not permit us to go to other matters contained in these most entertaining biographical notices, without cautioning the reader not to take the standard of the utility and intelligence of Mr. Edgeworth's mechanical pursuits, from these specimens of his achievements in this line. He effected much of a more useful nature, and appears to have had very considerable talent in this way—but so in fact had *King Corny*.

Mr. Edgeworth's first marriage was the only unsuitable one of the several it was his fortune to make; and not finding his wife cheerful at home, he says, led him to seek cheerful company abroad. In fact, before the death of his father, we find him quite involved in the vortex of dissipation and fashion. His picture of the *beau monde* of those times is not without its charms. Among the ladies who visited the Mrs. Blakes, was a Miss Dalton, the famous "Fanny, blooming fair," whom lord Chesterfield has celebrated. He was ingenious enough to detect the legerdemain tricks of the "celebrated Comus." Miss D. told him that her relation, the famous sir Francis Blake Delaval, had also discovered these secrets, and believed himself to be the only man in England who possessed them. This brought about an acquaintance, or rather intimacy, between Mr. Edgeworth and sir Francis, from the description of the incidents of which we derive much amusement. They arranged together the house in Downing street, where sir Francis lived, for the representation of conjuring tricks.

"The ingenuity of some of the contrivances, that were employed in our deceptions, attracted the notice not only of those who sought mere amusement, but of men of letters and science, who came to our exhibitions. This circumstance was highly grateful to sir Francis, and advantageous to me. I, by these means, became acquainted with many men of eminence, to whom I could not at any period of my life have otherwise obtained familiar access. Among the number were Dr. Knight, of the British Museum; Dr. Watson; Mr. Wilson; Mr. Espinasse, the electrician; Foote, the author and actor, a man, who, beside his well known humour, possessed a considerable fund of real feeling; Macklin, and all the famous actors of the day. They resorted to a constant table, which was open to men of genius and merit in every department of literature and science. I cannot say, that his guests were always 'unelbowed by a player;' but I can truly assert, that none but those who were an honour to the stage, and who were admitted into the best company at other houses, were received at sir Francis Delaval's."

They got up the tragedy of the Fair Penitent here, to allow the late duke of York, who afterwards died suddenly at Rome, to play Lothario; and "he was as warm, as hasty, and as much in love, as the fair Calista could possibly wish." A pleasant supper party, he says, they had at the King's

Arms, Covent Garden, after the performance.

"Macklin called for a nightcap, and threw off his wig. This, it was whispered to me, was a signal of his intention to be entertaining. Plays, playwrights, enunciation, action, every thing belonging to eloquence of every species was discussed. Angelo, the graceful fencing master, and Bensley, the actor, were of the party; Angelo was consulted by Bensley, on what he ought to do with his hands while he was speaking. Angelo told him, that it was impossible to prescribe what he should always do with them; but that it was easy to tell him what should *not* be done—"he should not put them into his breeches pocket"—a custom to which poor Bensley was much addicted. Pronunciation was discussed; the faults in our language in this particular were copiously enumerated. 'For instance,' said Macklin, '*Pare* me a pair of pears.' You may take three words out of this sentence, of the same sound, but of different meaning, and I defy any man to pronounce them in such a manner as to discriminate the sounds, or to mark to any ear by his pronounciation the difference between the verb, *to pare*, the noun of number, *a pair*, and the fruit, *pear*. The pompous Bensley undertook that Powel, who was remarkable for a good ear, should do this. Bensley, who mouthed prodigiously while he spoke, was put behind a curtain, that the motion of his lips might not assist Powel in judging what meaning he intended to express by each of the words as he pronounced them. One of the company was placed behind the curtain, and to him Bensley was previously to communicate, whether he proposed to pronounce the word denoting the action, the noun of number, or the fruit. Bensley failed so often, and so ridiculously, that he became quite angry, and charged Powel with wilful misapprehension. To defend himself, Powel proposed that Holland should try his skill; but Holland had no better success. During these trials, I concerted by signs with sir Francis a method of pointing out my meaning, and I offered to try my skill. The audience with difficulty restrained their contempt; but I took my place behind the curtain, and they were soon compelled to acknowledge, that I had a more distinct pronounciation, or that sir Francis had more acute hearing, than the rest of the company. Out of twenty experiments I never failed more than two or three times, and in these I failed on purpose, to prevent suspicion. I had made my

confederate understand, that when I turned my right foot outward, as it appeared from beneath the curtain, I meant to say *pare*, to cut; when I turned it inward, *pair*, a couple; and when it was straight forward, *pear*, the fruit. We kept our own counsel, and won unmerited applause. Amidst such trifling as this, much sound criticism was mixed, which improved my literary taste, and a number of entertaining anecdotes were related, which informed my inexperienced mind with knowledge of the world."

One of the many excellent anecdotes which Mr. Edgeworth introduces relative to the extraordinary man of the town with whom he was now passing his time, we shall give as a sample. Sir Francis had contrived to represent the borough of Andover, in several parliaments, by practising a series of tricks on his constituents: but at length, he sustained a reverse of fortune, and his electioneering success terminated.

His attorney's bill was yet to be discharged. It had been running on for many years, and though large sums had been paid on account, a prodigious balance still remained to be adjusted. The affair came before the King's Bench. Among a variety of exorbitant and monstrous charges there appeared the following article.

"To being thrown out of the window at the George inn, Andover—to my leg being thereby broken—to surgeon's bill, and loss of time and business—all in the service of sir F. B. Delaval.—Five hundred pounds.

"When this curious *item* came to be explained, it appeared, that the attorney had, by way of promoting sir Francis's interest in the borough, sent cards of invitation to the officers of a regiment in the town, in the name of the mayor and corporation, inviting them to dine and drink his majesty's health on his birthday. He, at the same time, wrote a similar invitation to the mayor and corporation, in the name of the officers of the regiment. The two companies met, complimented each other, eat a good dinner, drank a hearty bottle of wine to his majesty's health, and prepared to break up. The commanding officer of the regiment, being the politest man in company, made a handsome speech to Mr. Mayor, thanking him for his hospitable invitation and entertainment. 'No, colonel,' replied the mayor, 'it is to you that thanks are due by me and by my brother aldermen for your generous treat to us.' The colonel replied with as much warmth as good breeding would allow: the mayor retorted with downright anger, swearing that he would not be choused by the bravest colonel in

his majesty's service—"Mr. Mayor," said the colonel, "there is no necessity for displaying any vulgar passion on this occasion. Permit me to show you, that I have here your obliging card of invitation." 'Nay, Mr. Colonel, here is no opportunity for bantering, there is your card.'

"Upon examining the cards, it was observed, that notwithstanding an attempt to disguise it, both cards were written in the same hand, by some person who had designed to make fools of them all. Every eye of the corporation turned spontaneously upon the attorney, who, of course, attended all public meetings. His impudence suddenly gave way, he faltered and betrayed himself so fully by his confusion, that the colonel, in a fit of summary justice, threw him out of the window. For this sir Francis Delaval was charged five hundred pounds. Whether he paid the money or not, I forget."

ST. CLAIR'S CAMPAIGN.

From the Western Review.

General Harmer's expedition, of which an account was given in the *Western Review* for April last, not having answered the purpose intended, viz. that of bringing about a peace with the northern Indians, Congress passed an act adding to the establishment another regiment of regular troops, which was placed under the command of general Arthur St. Clair, and general Richard Butler was made second in rank, which last appointment determined general Harmer to leave the service. The delay in the quartermaster's department was so great, that it was late in September before the army was ready to leave Fort Washington, and when it arrived at the Big Miami river, a fort was commenced, the erection of which, from the rawness of the troops, occupied more than two weeks. The army then, about the 4th of October, 1791, attempted to march by two roads, opened at 400 yards distance from each other, and proceeded about two miles; the line of march was then altered, and they proceeded, in two days more, about twelve miles, when the country became more open. They then continued in a direct line, N. 16° W. until stopped, at thirty-six miles from the Big Miami, by an impenetrable swamp or morass. Upon strict search, an old Indian path was found, which the general concluded to follow, as the whole country appeared to be full of these morasses. At about sixty-eight miles from the Ohio river a second fort was built, call-

ed Fort Jefferson, before the completion of which the contract failed, and the public horses had to be sent back for a supply of provisions. The men were put on an allowance of half a pound of flour and a pound of beef per day for one week, and were then limited to a quarter of a pound of flour per day to the end of the campaign. Fort Jefferson having been finished, the troops moved on six miles, to the place where Greenville was afterwards built, and remained there a week. Having then received a small supply of provisions, they moved on twelve miles to Still Water, where about one hundred and fifty or two hundred of the Kentucky militia deserted. The general, being apprehensive they would fall in with and destroy a convoy of provisions which was expected, detached major Hamtramock, with the principal part of the first regiment, to meet the convoy and protect it. As the major passed the encampment (six miles from Fort Jefferson), a party of Indians was discovered reconnoitring, who fled at his approach. The regiment proceeded to the tree, nineteen miles from the Miami river, where it was expected the convoy of provisions would be in waiting, but none was there. The detachment then commenced its march back to the army, but did not arrive in time to render any service.

The army had advanced, on the night of the 3d of November, thirty miles from Fort Jefferson, to the bank of one of the forks of the Wabash, and just after daylight next morning a general attack was made on the whole army, which was completely surrounded, and received a most deadly fire, from the enemy on every side. The troops stood up in their ranks and received the fire for some time, when general Butler ordered a charge with the right wing, and drove the enemy a considerable distance; but the troops, on returning to their encampment, were followed by the enemy, firing on their rear. A second charge was then made by the same troops with similar success, and similar loss. General Butler, having received two wounds, both of which were dressed, determined to make a third charge, but, just as he was mounting his horse for the purpose, he received a mortal wound. By this time the field was strewn with the dead and dying. General St. Clair, being ill with the gout, and scarcely able to sit on horseback, entertaining no hopes of victory, but seeing the greater part of his officers either killed or wounded, ordered his troops to charge at the road and to go home; by which means

they broke through the enemy. Now commenced the most disgraceful part of the scene. As the greater portion of the men threw away their arms, and every thing that was cumbersome, the ground was strewn with dead bodies, hats, coats, and shoes, for about four miles, where the enemy gave over the chase. The returns of the killed and missing amounted to seven hundred and fifty privates and seven officers; but including wagoners, pack horsemen, and bullock drivers, there were upwards of one thousand, besides a great number of women, who had been injudiciously suffered to follow the army.

Great blame has been cast on general St. Clair for the failure of this expedition, but the fault rested principally with the quartermaster general, who took a considerable time in having tent poles and packsaddles made in Philadelphia, and transported across the mountains. The former were laid by as useless, the troops preferring to cut tent poles where they encamped, rather than to carry them, and the packsaddles were so large, that they injured the back of every horse on which they were placed, although they cost, exclusive of transportation, double the price of good ones in Pittsburgh. General Butler saw they would not answer, and ordered others to be procured before he left Pittsburgh, otherwise the army would not have been able to move at all.

Another cause of the failure, which cannot be attributed to general St. Clair, was the nature of the troops, of which one half of his army was composed. They were levied for six months only, were badly clothed, and had to stand out in that climate with linen pantaloons nearly worn out; many of them were without shoes, with only part of a hat, and the remains of what had been called a coat; very few had shirts, and, what was worse than all, they were half starved. The contract having failed, the army ought to have returned, but the general had no discretionary orders. He was to go on at all events to the Miami village, where Harmer had been the fall before, and the contractor undertook with two hundred horses to supply the army with flour, although one thousand would have been insufficient for the purpose. The only error I attribute to general St. Clair was his not following Harmer's route, as he had a number of officers with him, who could have been his guides, told him what kind of country he had to pass, and where to look out for ambuscades, but perhaps he was ordered to take the

route he did. I cannot forbear to mention the shameful conduct of some of the quartermasters, in cheating the soldiers out of part of their small allowance. It had been agreed that where the beef was drawn in large drafts, 5 per cent. should be allowed to make up for the waste in dividing between messes; this 5 per cent. those quartermasters appropriated to their own use, and indeed, it was said, frequently more.

Forts Jefferson and Hamilton were retained, notwithstanding the great advantage the enemy had gained. Brigadier general Wilkinson was sent on to take the command of the residue of the troops, consisting of part of the 1st and 2d regiments of infantry. In the course of the winter, the general made an excursion to the field of battle, and received one piece of cannon and all the carriages, also one traveling forge, and some tools. The next summer was devoted to getting on a supply of provisions in advance, and reconnoitring the country. General Wilkinson made a second visit to St. Clair's battle ground, found one piece of cannon which the Indians had hid, and removed it to another place. The troops at Forts Jefferson and Hamilton were also employed part of the summer in getting a quantity of hay for the use of the cavalry that was expected at Fort Jefferson. The haymakers were attacked, and a sergeant, corporal, and fifteen privates, killed or taken. A few were also taken from Fort Hamilton.

This summer, three different flags, with proposals of peace, were sent to the Indians; the first by Mr. Freeman, who was killed on the Little Miami river, the other two by colonel John Hardin of Kentucky, and major Freeman of the regular troops, who set out together and kept in company to the place now called St. Marks, where they separated, colonel Hardin taking the route to Sandusky, and major Freeman to the mouth of the Auglaize. Nothing certain has ever been known of the fate of colonel Hardin. Major Freeman had arrived within a few miles of his destination, when he was treacherously massacred in the night by two savages. The interpreter, who was with him, escaped, and relates that, a few days after, he saw colonel Hardin's horses and clothes brought in, which is all that has ever been heard respecting him since.

The Deaf and Dumb fond of Music.

The following interesting account of the fondness for music of an artist born deaf

and dumb, is extracted from a recent work on the art of instructing the deaf and dumb, by John Pouncefort Arrowsmith. It is part of a letter written by G. Chippendale, esq. of Winwick, copied into the work of Mr. Arrowsmith, as illustrative of this sense of feeling in his brother.

"Some years back, probably five or six, a young gentleman of the name of Arrowsmith, a member of the royal academy at Somerset House, of what degree I cannot remember, came down into this country, and resided some months in Warrington, in the exercise of his profession as a miniature and portrait painter. He was quite deaf, so as to be entirely dumb. He had been taught to write, and wrote an elegant hand, in which he was enabled to express his own ideas with facility; he was also able to read and understand the ideas of others expressed in writing. It will scarcely be credited, that a person thus circumstanced should be fond of music, but this was the fact in the case of Mr. Arrowsmith. He was at a gentleman's glee club, of which I was president at that time, and as the glees were sung, he would place himself near some articles of wooden furniture, or a partition, door, or window shutter, and would fix the extreme ends of his finger nails, which he kept rather long, upon the edge of the wood or some projecting part of it, and there remain, until the piece under performance was finished, all the while expressing, by the most significant gestures, the pleasure he experienced from his perception of the musical sounds. He was not so much pleased with a solo, as with a pretty full clash of harmony; and if the music was not very good, or, I should rather say, if it was not correctly executed, he would show no sensation of pleasure. But the most extraordinary circumstance in this case is, that he was most evidently delighted with those passages in which the composer displayed his science in modulating his different keys. When such passages happened to be executed with precision, he could scarcely repress the emotions of pleasure he received within any bounds; for the delight he evinced seemed to border on ecstasy.

"This was expressed most remarkably at our club when the glee was sung, with which we often conclude; it is by Stevens, and begins with the words, "Ye spotted snakes," &c. from Shakspeare's *Midsummer's Night Dream*. In the second stanza, on the words, "Weaving spiders come not here," &c. there is some modulation of the kind above alluded to, and here Mr. Ar-

rowsmith would be in raptures, such as would not be exceeded by one who was in immediate possession of the sense of hearing.

"These facts are very extraordinary ones; and that they are facts can be proved by the evidence of six or eight gentlemen who were present, and by turns observed him accurately."

The Democratic Press states, that "by private advices, we learn that the British admiral, sir H. Popham, has at length concluded a treaty with Christophe, by which he is to pay to the British government at the rate of forty-five dollars a head for every negro which they may land in his dominions. It is presumed the negroes taken on board slave ships will by the British be sent to Hayti. We are assured that this step has been taken by Christophe, because he has ascertained that his subjects decrease at the rate of six per cent. per annum."

This is a very strange story. Supposing nobody is ever born in Christophe's dominions, his subjects must die twice as fast as the usual rates to produce such a decrease. His tyrannical reign is not very favourable to the increase of population, but we have no doubt that it allows of a constant though perhaps a slow augmentation.

The Hon. William Griffith, of New Jersey, has published a prospectus of a periodical work, to be entitled, *The Law Register of the United States*. "The design of this publication is to disseminate throughout the United States and its territories, information on all those subjects falling within the range of 'legal institutions,' which may be deemed important and generally useful." To be published semi-annually, in half volumes of 250 pages, at five dollars per annum. The first half volume will be published by the first of July, 1821.

Absence of Mind.—Among a number of instances of the celebrated Dr. Moncey's absence of mind, is one which he frequently mentioned, and laughed at heartily, when in good humour, at the same time observing that his brother was as bad as himself. The doctor being once on a visit to his brother, in Norfolk, in the beginning of winter, and intending to set off for London the next day, his brother proposed to go and shoot wild ducks early in the morning, that he might carry two or three couple fresh killed to London with him. The ser-

vant was ordered to clean the long fowling piece, get plenty of powder and shot, and to goose-grease their boots. Every thing being in readiness according to their desire, about an hour before daylight the doctor and his brother set off for the place where the ducks resort, in order to be there by the break of day, when they generally take wing to go to feed. They had walked nearly three miles, and it having rained in the night, the clay mud wall was very dirty and greasy, when they heard the cry of the ducks. They were now obliged to get over the wall and the gate, across a sluice into the marsh where the ducks were. The rain had raised the water about a foot. It was then proposed that one should go over, and the other remain behind. Says the doctor, "George, do you go over, for I have forgotten my boots." "So have I, doctor," says his brother; "but we won't lose our sport, as we have come so far." So both waded through, and got over the gate into the marsh, and advancing along the fleet, they at length perceived the ducks. "You are near enough, George," said the doctor. "Aye," replied George, "I think we are not above an hundred yards off." "Why then fire," says the doctor. "Do you fire," returned George. "Why I hav'nt got the gun; do you fire." "I fire! why I have not got the gun," said his brother, "I thought you had it. What a fine opportunity is lost. Here are not less than thirty ducks within shot, and neither of us have got the gun."

It is calculated that a person has 1500 opportunities of leaving London in the course of 24 hours by stage coaches, including the repeated trips of the coaches which run short distances. It is understood that 300 stage coaches pass through Hyde Park corner daily.

Literature and Science.

Homer's Iliad.—A copy of Homer's Iliad has been discovered in the Ambrosian library of Milan, which appears to be of the fourth century, nearly six ages older than that on which the editions of Homer are founded. It contains 60 pictures, equally ancient. They are on vellum.

The characters of the manuscripts, are square capitals, according to the usage of the best ages, without distinction of words, without accents or the aspirates; that is to say, without any sign of the modern Greek orthography.

Gay Lussac has shown by experiment, that when a delicate air thermometer is inclosed in a vacuum, and that vacuum is suddenly either enlarged or diminished, no change whatever takes place in the thermometer. But if the smallest quantity of air be admitted, this compression, or more properly the diminution of the space, occasions an elevation of temperature, and the enlargement occasions cold. This result he seems to consider as strengthening the hypothesis, that caloric is not matter, or that it does not exist independent of matter. [*Ann. de Chimie*, 1820.]

Education in Africa.—At the French settlement of St. Louis, in Senegal, a school has been opened on the system of mutual instruction. It is attended by 150 children. The kings of Galam and of Bambouk, more than 200 leagues in the interior, have sent their children to this school. Lessons have been prepared both in the French and Yollof languages. M. Dard, the director of the school, has prepared a grammar and a dictionary of the Yollof (or Wolof). He has also translated into that language the Old and New Testaments. A school of 50 girls is also taught there by French nuns. Several African princes have visited the school, and measures have been taken to establish others in the interior. The Senegal children possess great aptitude for instruction. They read, write, and calculate with facility. Several of the monitors have become qualified to conduct other schools. The teacher (Dard) appears to be a man of great merit. The establishment at St. Louis is under the direction of the Education Society in Paris.

A society is to be established in Edinburgh for the promotion of arts, similar to that in London, and connected with a repository of models on the plan of that at the Adelphi.

The king of Denmark has granted a pension of 200 crowns, during two years, to four persons distinguished for their knowledge, to encourage them to travel in foreign countries.

Dr. Perret, of Switzerland, has found that the root of the plantain (*plantago major*, minor et *lantifolia*,) is an excellent febrifuge.

Literature of the Low Countries.—During the first quarter of the present year, there have appeared in the Low Countries (kingdom of Holland) 586 new publications; of which 88 are original. Of these, 60 are

in Dutch, 9 in French, 4 in Flemish, 4 in Latin, and 11 in other languages.

Bohea tea has been successfully cultivated in the department of Arriege, in France.

Necrology.—Sir Charles Blagden, the celebrated English philosopher, died at the house of count Berthollet, at Arceuil, near Paris, on the 26th of March last. He was eighty years of age, and retained to the last the sprightliness and vivacity of middle age. He spent much of his time in France, and was a diligent attendant of the Institute, in which he held an honourable seat. He was noted for pursuing the most exact plan in the distribution of his time, in his meals, his visits, &c. He kept a journal of passing events, in which were found the occurrences of the morning preceding his death. He kept up a regular correspondence with his friend, sir Joseph Banks. He left a considerable fortune, and was very liberal towards the poor.

Volney, the French traveller and philosopher, died on the 22d of April last, aged sixty-three.

Seybert's Statistics have been translated into French. The author is much dissatisfied with the manner in which the translation has been executed, and thus speaks of it in a letter to the editor of the *Révue Encyclopédique*: "This book is announced as a translation of mine; but it is an entirely different work. Mr. Sheffer has not been satisfied with expunging, in each chapter, a great number of data and official details; he has allowed himself to change many paragraphs; to substitute other ideas for mine; to pervert the sense of my words, and to alter the expression of my feelings. I therefore solemnly disavow this pretended translation; and I appeal for the necessity of this step to the judgment of those who shall be so obliging as to compare the two works. I will add, that my book, a very large quarto, contains 824 pages, and that of Mr. Sheffer, in common octavo, has but 455, although the type of the two works is of about the same size.

"I beg you to insert this letter in the next number of your estimable journal."

It is stated in the *Révue Encyclopédique*, that the whole number of works in the Russian language, original and translated, is 3400; the proportion of translations is about one half, chiefly from the French and German. The number of journals and periodical works generally, published in Russia, is estimated at fifty.

Dr. Annibal Patrelli, a Neapolitan, is now printing books at Naples by the lithographic method. He employs all kinds of stones that are compact and susceptible of polish.

There are no less than seventy-one considerable printing establishments in Lombardy. The importation of books into Italy, from Germany, France and England, is said to have increased beyond all calculation, since the general peace. Political works make up a large part of this importation.

A French version has recently appeared in Paris, of *Karamsin's New History of Russia*, the most authentic and complete work on the subject. It contains an extract from the code of Iaroslof, showing that the trial by jury in criminal cases, was established in Russia, with all the forms which it has in England and the United States, at so early a period as the thirteenth century.

Mr. C. S. Rafinesque, in a letter to Mr. Caleb Atwater, says that he has lately heard that something like the ruins of a town built with sun burnt bricks, mixed with straw, and in which brick wells have been seen, also the appearances of houses, streets, &c. have been discovered not far from the western bank of the Mississippi, between New Madrid and the mouth of the river Arkansas.

Proposals are issued at Albany, for printing by subscription, "Travels in France and Italy, in 1817 and 1818, by the Rev. Wm. Berrian, an assistant minister in Trinity Church, New York."

Agriculture.



"Let us cultivate the ground, that the poor, as well as the rich, may be filled; and happiness and peace be established throughout our borders."

In pursuance of a resolution of the Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture, passed June 20, 1820, authorizing a committee, consisting of the President and Curators, to publish

such communications to the society as they may think proper—it was resolved by the committee, that the following be printed in the National Recorder.

By order of the Curators.

I. C. JONES.

New York, 9th Mo. 25th, 1820.

Agreeably to my promise, I hand the direction for burning clay for manure; the process is so simple that it is hardly possible any one should miss it.

In the first place, plough a piece of clay ground when pretty wet, as deep as you conveniently can; let it remain till a dry season, when you are to build a cross pile of wood, four feet in length, two feet in height, and sufficiently compact to burn well. You are to build a bank of clay sods, two feet thick, around your wood, and about two and a half feet high; you are now to set fire to the bottom of the wood in several places; when completely on fire, you are to put a light covering of sods over the top, which by degrees continue, until you have nearly closed up every avenue for the smoke to escape; now begin throwing lumps of clay and sods on such parts as you find the smoke escaping through. Should your fire be making too rapid a progress, you are to select the clay with which you will generally be able to keep it within bounds, especially if there should be moisture in it. But in case you are not able to keep it down, you should with shovels throw on fine clay; on the other hand, if the process is too tardy, let a larger portion of sods be substituted, but during the whole process care must be taken to lose as little smoke as possible. At night, when you leave the kiln, you should give it a double coat of fine clay, which will generally retain the smoke till early on the ensuing morning. It will be found most convenient to make your kilns to contain twenty to thirty loads, as you will have less labour in carrying the clay to them; and by having them dispersed, there will be less carting of the ashes.

It will require from ten days to three weeks to burn a kiln. The length of time will depend on the weather, the quantity of wood used, and the size of your kiln. The ashes are excellent manure for grain, grass, turnips, and other vegetables; a large quart of well burnt ashes for a hill of Indian corn, twenty loads for an acre of wheat or grass.

Respectfully, thy friend,

WILLIAM SHOTWELL.

Reuben Haines.

Our readers will recollect that in a letter "on the mode of making butter in Brittany," published at p. 48, of this volume, Mr. Francis Da Costa alluded to a steam hydraulic engine upon a much improved plan lately invented. The Curators of the Agricultural Society directed Mr. Haines to write for further information, and the following letter was received in reply.

Nantes, August 25, 1820.

Respected Friend—Your esteemed letter of the 21st of March has just now reached me. It is with heartfelt pleasure I learn of my communications to you having been well received. The description of the steam hydraulic engine has not yet appeared in any print; the inventors, who are two brothers, officers in the Royal Artillery, and supposed to be no strangers to mathematical and philosophical science, wanted a subscription to a large amount to be filled, for delivering a certain number of ready made machines, at a certain price, to pay them for their discovery (the patent law in this country being very defective). The time limited to subscribe having expired without their subscription being filled, they have withdrawn their proposals, and since May last I have not heard any thing of it. Another person has come forward to propose an invention of the same kind, and upon terms still more advantageous than those proposed by Coessin's brothers; but the friend who mentioned it to me has not given the particulars about it. There are so many foreigners in Paris watching what is coming out new, that the inventors are very shy, and very little encouraged by government. An auto-blaze boiler for cooking has been lately put up in Paris, which proves to be very quick in its operation and very economical in the consumption of fuel. The English have already carried it over, and talk of it in the highest terms. If I can get a sight of it I will give you a description of it, and so of an improved forge bellows, which I have lately put up at my factory here, and which gives me as much blast as one three times larger, and cost me but twenty dollars. I am, very respectfully, your very humble servant,

FRANCIS DA COSTA.

Reuben Haines, esq.

To prevent Horses being teased by Flies.
Put walnut leaves in water; let them remain all night; boil them in the morning, and with a sponge moisten those parts which are most irritable.

Record.

ELECTION.

The General Election took place in Pennsylvania on the 10th October. The complete returns for governor have not yet reached this city, but enough is known to make the election of Joseph Hiester certain.

The following is a statement of the city election.

*Congress.**—John Sergeant,† 4387; Joseph Hemphill, 3095; Samuel Edwards, 2925; William Milnor, 3008.

Assembly.—William Lehman, Samuel J. Robins, George Emlen, John Edwards, William R. Atlee.

Select Council.—Joseph S. Lewis, Wm. Rush, John M. Scott, Wm. Meredith.

Common Council.—Dr. Samuel Jackson, James Cresson, Thomas Hale, John M. Price, John Markland, Benjamin Tilghman, James S. Smith, Bankson Taylor, Daniel Knight, John R. Coates, Thomas Williams, Benjamin Jones, jr. Ephraim Haines, Charles Watson, Samuel G. Wright, John Miller, jr. Armon Davis, John Rogers, Samuel Palmer, Samuel Robinson.

County Commissioner.—Samuel Pancoast, jr.

Coroner.—John Dennis.

Auditor.—Samuel Volans.

The Select Council has re-elected George Vaux president, and Thomas Bradford, jr. clerk.

The Common Council has elected James S. Smith president, and John C. Lowber clerk.

On Tuesday, the 17th, the councils met in convention, and elected Robert Wharton, esq. mayor of the city.

The Academy of Natural Sciences in this city has received from the president, Mr. William Maclure, now in France, a donation of books, amounting in value to about \$4,000, and have received advice of another valuable shipment from the same munificent hand.

By a table lately published, it appears that the whole number of Indians now residing in the forests of the state of Ohio, does not exceed 2400.

Missouri.—Governor M'Nair delivered the following speech at the commencement of the session of the legislature:

Fellow Citizens of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives,

Having been notified by you that I have been called by the voice of my fellow citizens, to fill the office of governor of the state of Missouri, it becomes my duty to enter upon the discharge of the arduous and important duties which the constitution of our state has assigned to that magistrate.

In doing so, I cannot but feel the greatest diffidence and embarrassment, arising as well from a want of experience in the affairs of the

* The representatives to Congress are sent from the district, composed of the city and county of Philadelphia and county of Delaware.

† This gentleman had an almost unanimous vote.

civil administration, as from the present important political crises of our country. Relying, however, much upon the aid which I shall receive from the representatives of a liberal and enlightened people, and above all, relying upon the protection of that Supreme Being who watches over and directs the destinies of nations, I feel encouraged in entering upon the arduous task before me.

I congratulate you, gentlemen, upon the happy change which has just taken place in our political affairs. From the dependent condition of a territorial government, we have passed into a sovereign and independent state. We have formed for ourselves a constitution which though perhaps not free from the imperfections incident to all human institutions, does honour to the character and intelligence of our infant state; and gives us every reason to expect that we shall without further difficulty be admitted into the federal union.

Much remains yet to be done to insure to ourselves the perfect enjoyment of all the inestimable blessings of self government, and it becomes us, in the measures which we shall adopt to put the new government into operation, to act with a degree of prudence and deliberation comporting with the importance of the duties to be performed, as the future character and prosperity of our country, in a very great degree, depends upon the measures of the first general assembly.

You will have the constitution laid before you, which points out the principal subjects of immediate legislation to put the new government in operation.

It is deemed advisable to remind you that the election of president and vice-president of the United States is approaching, and that it will be necessary to make provision as soon as possible for the election of three electors in this state, in order that we may have a voice in filling those highly important offices.

Gentlemen, I shall from time to time make to you such further communications as in the progress of your labours shall become necessary: and be assured, that I shall at all times, most readily and cheerfully co-operate with you to the best of my abilities in all measures calculated to promote the welfare of our country.

ALEXANDER MCNAIR.

St. Louis, September 19, 1820.

The editor of the St. Louis Enquirer says that some Philadelphians have had engraved a coat of arms and seal for Missouri. By way of showing to the inhabitants the deep rancour against them felt by the ignorant in Pennsylvania, he has been at the "expense of engraving the same figures."

"The first object in the picture is a parcel of handcuffs, which are called the family jewels of Missourians, and worn by their ancestors, &c.

"The second is a representation of one Missourian shooting another in the back.

"The third is a representation of two Missourians fighting with a cudgel and a whip.

"The fourth is the representation of a naked negro lying on the ground, a Missourian standing over him and whipping him with two whips.

"The motto is: Turn pale at no crime.

"This thing at first view excites nothing but feeling of contempt; but let it be recollected that idle abuse was not the object of those who did it. They have too much cunning mixed up with their malice for that. Their object is by such sights to inflame the ignorant, to make them vote against the rights of Missouri at elections, and to prepare the body of the people for the division of the union and a war of the free states against the slave states." [St. L. Enq.

We copy the following account of Mr. Guille's late ascension, in his own words, from the Aurora:

"I started at 3 o'clock and 35 minutes, on Saturday afternoon, the 14th October. By some mistake, and many people interfering to assist me in ascending, the balloon lost a considerable quantity of the gas. In less than five minutes I ascended to the distance of 1000 feet, when the earth disappeared to my view, there was not a sufficiency of distance between my situation and the earth, that to disengage myself from the balloon would have been attended with great danger. In this situation, when I could not see any part of the earth, I remained about 30 minutes, when I was transferred to a clear region, and had the advantage of the sun, which made the earth appear to me to be covered with snow; from thence I entered into another region of clouds, much darker than the former ones, and having no valve to my balloon, I was obliged to ascend much higher than I would otherwise have done. In this situation, when I ascended about 35,000 feet, according to the calculation I made with the help of a barometer, which I had with me, the air was so obscure, that I could neither see the balloon or parachute, and owing to the great cold I experienced, and also the fatigue, I fell asleep, and slept for some time. I would still have continued to ascend, had it not been for the wet state of the balloon, which made it very heavy, and this I attribute to the cause why my descent was sooner than I expected. A singular circumstance, and which I never have experienced, happened to me in my descent—during the time I remained surrounded by clouds, I could distinctly hear the report of some guns—I attribute this to the atmosphere being generally covered with clouds, and I believe that a commotion in the air will sooner communicate it to a dark than a clear atmosphere. When I first discovered the earth, I descended so rapidly, owing to the balloon being so heavy, that my parachute opened itself. When I got to the ground, in an open field, and having no grappling irons, I was dragged about the distance of Market street, until the balloon was arrested in its course by a forest, where with the assistance of some persons, I was able to get out of my basket and secure the balloon. Mr. Ralph H. Smith, to whom I herewith offer my sincerest thanks, was kind enough to accompany me to Trenton, where we arrived at 8 o'clock, P. M.

"CHARLES GUILLE.

"October 16, 1820."

Professor Patterson proposes to deliver a course of lectures on Natural Philosophy, at the university, during the present winter. The lectures will be given on Monday and Thursday

evenings, at 7 o'clock. The price of the ticket, for ladies as well as gentlemen, will be ten dollars. Due notice will be given of the commencement of the course.

The news from our settlement on the African coast is very distressing. We particularly regret the death of the Rev. Mr. Bacon, whom we had the pleasure of knowing before he commenced the ministry of the gospel. He was, during the war, an officer in the marine corps, and much esteemed for his personal qualities. We receive this news with sorrow. But we do not, from this untoward event, at all despair of the ultimate accomplishment of the object of this government and of the colonization societies. The error was palpably in the agents remaining too long on the low coast of that country, which, like similar points of our own coast, the Delta of the Mississippi for example, is scarcely habitable at certain seasons of the year. A better spot must be selected: the emigrants must settle on more elevated ground, at a farther distance from the water, and better adapted for tillage, as agriculture will be the first and principal occupation of the settlers. If we consult the history of the settlement of all countries, we shall find that the first parties of settlers have frequently fallen a sacrifice to imprudence in their location, to improvidence, or to ignorance of the peculiarities of the climate. Such was remarkably the case with the first settlers of Virginia: but they persevered: reinforcements were sent out—in the course of time they selected healthy situations, defended themselves against disease by the modes which experience pointed out to them—and flourished and multiplied until they became what the commonwealth of Virginia now is. Let, then, the friends of the great plan of restoring the Africans to the home of their fathers, and the government which co-operates with them, without stopping to grieve at what cannot be repaired, turn their attention to the means of prevention of similar disaster, and of thus securing to their efforts the success which they merit. [*Nat. Int.*]

At a late meeting of a number of lords and gentlemen at Mr. Coke's annual agricultural festival, lord Erskine made a speech principally consisting of strictures upon the conduct of the advocates of free trade. His lordship thought the impropriety of importing grain so clear, that it was unnecessary to bring forward any arguments to support his opinion. He indulged himself in the following attempt at wit.

Gentlemen—There is a very large building called the New Bedlam, which I never pass without a sigh: I hope it is not full; nor do I know whether all the people get there who are most worthy of such a provision; but I do think that the people I have just alluded to, have a striking claim to that national charity, and I wonder that their best friends don't apply to the statute, and place them in a receptacle adapted to their unhappy case. They say we should have *free trade*: no doubt but this is best for all nations who are on equal terms, but otherwise it is sheer madness, and deserves no consideration from reasonable men. Gentlemen—I should be thought to overstep the precise line of my duty

were I to expatiate on the causes of that difference which makes free trade impracticable with us; but it is necessary to state the fact, although I do not dwell upon the cause. Observe that I should not be understood to provoke any evil imputation, or couple political discussions with the matter in hand. I may explain my notion in this by a short anecdote:—A gentleman, whose name was *Caswell*, was addressed by a friend, who said, "Sir, if the C were taken from your name, it would be *as well*." "What do you mean," cries the gentleman, "by punning upon my name, and ridiculing me?" "I do not ridicule you," said his friend; "I only state a fact." Thus it was in many cases; and those who would run to meet offence were pretty sure to find it, and might often fancy it where it was never intended.

Spain, Russia and the Floridas.—There are, we understand, good grounds for believing that the Russian court has directly acknowledged the constitutional system re-established in Spain, and congratulated the Spanish monarch on the harmony subsisting between him and his new ministers and advisers. It is also said, upon information which we think worthy of credit, that the new administration in Spain are decidedly in favour of the ratification of the Florida treaty, and had resolved to exert to that end their influence with the Cortes. We have heard of a very amicable correspondence between the Spanish secretary of state and Mr. Forsyth, in which the latter makes full amends by the glowing kindness of his tone for the asperity of his former address. We rejoice in every act of conciliation and kindly communion between the two governments, because we believe the arrangements of the treaty are the best that could be made under all circumstances, and that the final confirmation of them will be for their mutual advantage. The *rights* of this country cannot be relinquished out of deference to the noble career in which the Spanish liberals are engaged; but in asserting them we owe every testimonial of consideration and sympathy compatible with the main subject. [*Nat. Gaz.*]

The ship of the line now on the stocks at Norfolk, is to be launched on the 21st instant. Her name, as ascertained by lot, according to law, is the *DELAWARE*.

The Rev. Joshua L. Wilson has been appointed professor of Moral Philosophy, and the Rev. Samuel Johnson professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres, in the Cincinnati college.

TERMS OF PUBLICATION.

Subscriptions to the National Recorder may commence at any time, though it is desirable that they should begin with a volume: they may be withdrawn at the close of any volume, provided notice be sent before any part of the next volume shall have been forwarded. Payment to be made in July of each year for the whole year. Such as begin with the second volume of any year, to pay for that volume on the first of January following.

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